Memorandum

TO .: File

DATE: 12/13/73

b6 b7с b7D

FROM : SAC RALPH J. MILES

SUBJECT:

CHARLES JERRY CRABTREE, commonly known as Jerry Crabtree, Sheriff of Madison County, Huntsville, Alabama; FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATE; ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT.

BACKGROUND DATA

Birmingham file 165-45. Bureau file 165-1130, captioned	
	b6
The other is Birmingham file 165-68, Bureau file 165-1411,	b7C
captioned	
On 12/10/73, Captain and Sergeant	b6
	b7C
and other members of the Alabama Department	D/C
of Public Safety planned a raid on gamblers and	
at Huntsville. Prior to the raid they sought assistance	
from the Madison County Sheriff's Office at Huntsville. The	
rids produced no results, not because	
vie not gambling, but apparently because they were tipped	•
off prior to the raid.	
Birmingham file 1-294, Bureau file 1-8907, concerns	

The Birmingham Office currently has under investi-

JERRY CRABTREE, full name CHARLES JERRY CRABTREE, white male, born 10/23/33, at Huntsville, Alabama. This file shows that while CRABTREE was a Detective with the Huntsville, Alabama Police Department, he graduated from the 64th Session of the FBI National Academy 11/4/59, having been interviewed therefor and recommended by then Birmingham SAC CLARENCE M. KELLEY, now FBI Director. CRABTREE left the Huntsville Police Department

4 - 1-294 ((CRABIRGE)	
1 - 80-69	(Mad <u>ison C</u> ounty SO)	
1 - 1-540	(Lt.	
1 - 80-234	("Huntsville News" - LANKFORD)	
2 - 165-45	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
2 - 165-68	L 96507	4/
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Enclosure

BH 1-294

in 1962 to run for the office of Sheriff of Madison County; was defeated; and returned to the Huntsville Police Department. On 10/6/64, CRABTREE was suspended from the Huntsville Police Department by the Chief of Police for neglect of duty. At a meeting of the Huntsville City Council 10/4/64, the suspension was withdrawn and CRABTREE submitted his resignation. In 1966, CRABTREE ran for Sheriff of Madison County as a Republican and was elected and has been Sheriff of that county since. Relations between the Madison County Sheriff's Office and the Birmingham Office have been cordial.

ALLEGATION

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	On 12/12/73, Mr. THOMAS EARL/LANKFORD, Editor and	
	General Manager of the "Huntsville News," a Huntsville, Alabama	
	daily newspaper, since about 1969, and formerly a reporter	
	for "The Birmingham News," a Birmingham daily newspaper.	
	telephoned Birmingham SAC RALPH J. MILES and	b7E
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LANKFORD was the subject of a UPUC case in 1964, Birmingham file 139-26, Bureau file 139-1990, which involved an allegation that while a reporter for "The Birmingham News" in 1964, LANKFORD tapped the telephone of a suspect in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. In that matter, the telephone company found no evidence of wire tapping and the case was closed.

LANKFORD was one of several subjects in Birmingham file 46-1731, Bureau file 46-60896. In this case, THOMAS EARL LANKFORD and two other associates formed a corporation known as "Criminal Justice Systems, Incorporated," in order to do a research project to develop a State law enforcement plan for the Alabama Law Enforcement Planning Agency (ALEPA). The organization was incorporated on 6/15/70, and on the same date obtained a contract from ALEPA for their law enforcement plan for which the corporation was paid \$91.570.00. There was much controversy and publicity concerning this An FAG - Conspiracy investigation was conducted in 1971 to determine if any collusion, kickbacks, or other irregularity existed in connection with this contract and The Alabama Attorney General filed a suit its payment. against the corporation to recover the \$91,570.00, but this suit was dropped when the defendants repaid \$20,000.00 and no State or Federal prosecution was ever undertaken.

The aforementioned gambling cases are being supervised by Birmingham ASAC HARLAN C. PHILLIPS who will hereafter add to this memorandum information relating to this matter which he has developed.

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The following leads should be considered: 1. SRA or ASAC H. C. PHILLIPS, or both,	b 6
should, through SAC MILES, interview of Mr. THOMAS EARL LANKFORD concerning instant matter	b7C r.b7E
	b6 b7C b7E

3. Conduct any additional investigation as necessary.